



Independence National Historical Park gets visitors from all over the world. Some of our visitors are actually of the feathered variety. Our historical buildings are surrounded by grassy lawns, tall trees and eye-catching flower beds. These attract a wide variety of birds to Independence NHP.

Migratory birds account for about 1,800 species. Of that, 350 migrate between North America and South America every year. A migratory bird travels seasonally in response to changes in food availability, habitat or weather. Only one bird on this table is a true migratory species. Can you guess which one?

Use this bird counting brochure to record the number of each species of bird that you can find in the park. Keep track of your numbers on the table below. Read interesting facts about some of the most common birds seen in the park, on the back of this brochure! Go to www.birdday.org to learn more about what you can do to protect wild birds in the park as well as at home.

Independence NHP Bird Count List			
Picture	Bird Type	Count	Location
	American Goldfinch		
	American Robin		
	Black-capped Chickadee		
	Black Crows		
	Blue Jays		
	Chipping Sparrows		
	European Starlings		
	Mourning Dove		
	Northern Cardinal		
	Red-tailed Hawk		
	Rock Pigeon		

* Bird images courtesy of the NPS or Great American Bird Count website, <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc>

Independence NHP Bird Facts			
Picture	Bird Type	Information	Habitat
	American Goldfinch	Commonly seen in flocks, feeding on tree buds, weed seeds, and some insects. Males are brilliant yellow with brown and black markings. Females are small in size with yellow-brown coloring.	This bird is found across the United States. Common and widespread in orchards, hedgerows, and overgrown fields.
	American Robin	One of North America's most familiar birds. Males and females are uniform dark gray upper side with darker head, rusty-orange breast and dark tail with white corners.	Nests in open woodlands from spruce, pine, or deciduous forests to suburban neighborhoods. Most often seen in lawns and fields searching for earthworms and small insects.
	Black-capped Chickadee	Usually seen in small groups; may loosely associate with other woodland song birds. Black cap and throat with white cheeks distinctive. Feeds on seeds, insects, and spiders.	Common and widespread in any wooded habitat. Common across the northern portion of North America and the Appalachian region of the south east.
	Black Crows	Feeds on great variety of animal and vegetable food. Generally flies in loose groups. All black; distinguished from other crows and ravens by structure and voice.	Common and widespread across North America and is one of the best-known. Found in small groups in all open habitats from beaches to farmland to suburbs and open woods.
	Blue Jays	Feeds on variety of insects as well as acorns and other seeds. Bright blue wings and tail with flashing white patches, blue crest, and dark "necklace".	Common and widespread in woods. Travels through woods in small groups or pairs. Feeds on variety of insects as well as acorns and other seeds.
	Chipping Sparrows	These migratory birds have a long thin tail with un-streaked whitish underside, distinct dark eye-line extending to bill, and usually grayish rump.	Nests in open woodland edges with grassy understory, such as urban parks and lawns. Usually in small flocks.
	European Starlings	Introduced to North American in 1800's. Found in large flocks across the country, year round. Uniform blackish color and distinctive white or orange dots. Forages on grubs, worms, insects, fruit and seeds.	Nests in birdhouses, crevices in buildings and tree cavities. Common and widespread across North America, wherever human settlement occurs. Distinguishable by all other birds by shape and habit.
	Mourning Dove	Slender dove, with long pointed tail and marrow, pointed wings. Subtly colored in brown and gray. warm brown with buffy under tailed coverts and black spots on wings.	Common in many suburban and agricultural habitats with mix open ground and bush cover. Forages on the ground for seeds. Usually found in small groups.
	Northern Cardinal	Male cardinals are bright red. Females are light brown with red markings around their wings. They both have a black face with red-orange bills. They're favorite food is sunflower seeds!	Look for Northern Cardinals in inhabited areas such as backyards, parks, woodlots, and shrubby forest edges. Northern Cardinals nest in dense tangles of shrubs and vines.
	Red-tailed Hawk	This solitary bird is stocky and broad with rounded wings and a short red tail. Pale underside of flight feathers and dark mark on leading edge of underwing.	Uncommon, but widespread. Usually seen perched on trees, poles, or fence posts along roads or fields. Nests in tall trees with open feeding areas nearby.
	Rock Pigeon or Feral Pigeon	Falcon like in appearance with longer wings and more pointed wingtips. Light gray body with dark gray wings and head. Green and pink markings on neck and pink legs.	Common and widespread; introduced from Europe and escaped from domestication to become one of the most familiar birds in North America.